

# Building Opportunity

Winter / 2005

*The Missouri Department of Transportation's newsletter for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises*

## Crayons To CAD – Middle School Kids Compete in Design/Build Contest

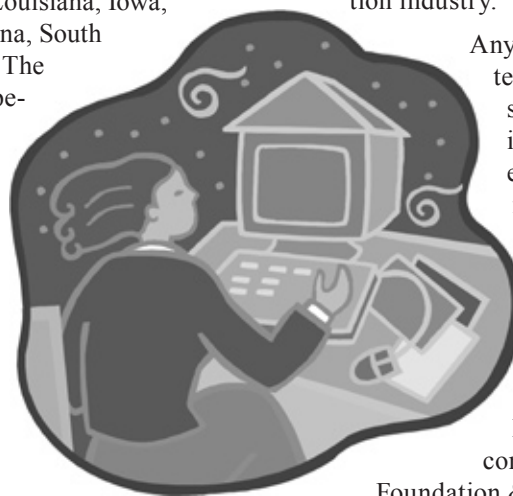
More than 4,000 sixth- to ninth-grade students from around the state participated in the seventh-annual Crayons to CAD Middle School Design Build Competition last year. Sponsoring partners are already planning the coming year's competition. It is designed to help alleviate shortages of skilled labor in the construction industry. Last year participating students, representing more than 200 schools, spent several months learning firsthand what it takes to build a commercial structure.

For the 2004-2005 contest, students will learn about the heavy highway industry. Working in teams of two or three in their mainstream classrooms, students will perform activities in measurement, scale and fractions, OSHA safety curriculum, concrete analysis, steel analysis, heavy highway construction reports, technology, blueprint reading, 3-D model bridge creation and bridge design.

Also new this coming year will be a national competition, with seven participating states: Kansas, Louisiana, Iowa, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina and Missouri. The Missouri regional competition for participating schools in Kansas City, Springfield and St. Louis will be held in Kansas City on March 1, 2005. The national competition will also be in Kansas City on March 2, 2005. Principals, teachers and administrators will attend with the winning entries from the participating states.

The contest began in 1998 with only 64 students and is sponsored by the National Foundation and Institute for

Construction Excellence, state and local agencies and members of the construction industry.



Any parents, teachers and school administrators interested in more information about the Crayons to CAD Middle School Design Build Program can contact: National

Foundation & Institute of Construction Excellence, attention Dr. Janet Paulson-Smith, executive director at (252) 328-2837 or e-mail [paulsonsmithj@mail.ecu.edu](mailto:paulsonsmithj@mail.ecu.edu).

### DBE Information

**Need more info? Contact these individuals for help.**

**Lester Woods**, Administrator

**Patricia Weekley**, St. Louis Office

**Donnetta Cole**, Kansas City Office

**Missy Reed**, Contract Compliance

**Kristi Hixson**, Certification

**Tanya Pleus**, Title VI

[dbe@modot.mo.gov](mailto:dbe@modot.mo.gov)

**1-888-ASK MODOT**

[www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org)

### Contract Compliance Reviews

All contractors awarded federal-aid contracts or subcontracts of more than \$10,000 are subject to compliance reviews. MoDOT conducts these reviews throughout Missouri from April to September of each year.

As specified by federal-aid highway contract provisions, contractors and subcontractors are required to take specific affirmative action steps to ensure equal employment opportunity. During compliance reviews, MoDOT personnel ensure these contractors fulfill affirmative action requirements and use proper recruitment and training efforts.

For further information or questions about EEO contract compliance reviews, or for a copy of the resource manual, contact Missy Reed at (573) 751-1216.

# Letting Schedule

## January, February and March

The following is a tentative, partial listing of upcoming projects and is subject to change. At this point, DBE goals have not been established for federally funded projects. The final project listing and goals will be available at [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org) under "Business with MoDOT." The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission assumes no responsibility for any inconvenience or expense caused by changes to this partial and tentative project.

### Bid Opening January 21, 2005

County: Dekalb  
Route: 6  
Project: J1L0500B  
Type of Work: 1" asphalt overlay

County: Saline  
Route: 70  
Project: J2I0737  
Type of Work: Install guard cable and upgrade guardrail end sections (as necessary) and signage

County: Lafayette  
Route: 70  
Project: J4I1701  
Type of Work: Replace sidewalks to make them ADA compliant

County: St. Louis  
Route: 40  
Project: J6P1780  
Type of Work: Pavement repair at various locations

County: Greene  
Route: AD  
Project: J8S0681  
Type of Work: Grading, paving and replace bridges

County: Hickory  
Route: Pks  
Project: J8L05POM  
Type of Work: Paving of various park roads and parking lots

County: Crawford  
Route: 44  
Project: J9I0552  
Type of Work: Coldmilling and super-paving Route I-44 eastbound lane and on-ramp

County: New Madrid  
Route: 55  
Project: J0I0854  
Type of Work: Pavement repair and thin lift overlay

### Bid Opening February 18, 2005

County: Lewis  
Route: E  
Project: J3S0453  
Type of Work: Grading, paving, and replace bridge over North Fabius River

County: Cooper  
Route: 70  
Project: J5I0845  
Type of Work: Adding guard cable to the median of I-70

County: Jefferson  
Route: 61  
Project: J6P1703  
Type of Work: Coldmill, resurface, pavement repair (3 disconnected sections)

County: Scott  
Route: 55  
Project: J0I0897  
Type of Work: Interchange and outer road improvements

### Bid Opening March 18, 2005

County: Monroe  
Route: YY  
Project: J3S0483  
Type of Work: Rehabilitate bridge over Milligan Creek

County: Ray  
Route: 13  
Project: J4P1102M  
Type of Work: Remove existing bridge

County: Maries  
Route: 63  
Project: J5P0783  
Type of Work: Resurfacing, stabilizing, and widening shoulders and adding turn lanes at Route 68 and Route 28

County: St. Louis  
Route: 44  
Project: J6I1785  
Type of Work: Pavement repair on I-44 and various curb and island replacements on I-255 outer road

County: Greene  
Route: O  
Project: J8S0682  
Type of Work: Grading, paving and replace bridge on relocation over Little Sac River

County: Scott  
Route: 61  
Project: J-S0905  
Type of Work: Improve intersection geometrics and add signals

*The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission assumes no responsibility for any inconvenience or expense caused by changes to this partial and tentative project listing.*

# Who We Are

# How We Can Help

The External Civil Rights Office of the Missouri Department of Transportation is responsible for administering all non-discrimination, affirmative action, and equal opportunity programs related to federally funded MoDOT contracting activities. The main office is located in Jefferson City and is staffed with an administrator and three specialists. In addition, Kansas City and St. Louis each have a specialist working at their MoDOT district office.

The primary programs administered by the External Civil Rights Office include the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, Contract Compliance, On-the-Job Training, Title VI Non-discrimination and Commercially Useful Function programs. The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program is required under federal law.

The office is also responsible for the certification of firms owned and operated by “socially and economically disadvantaged” individuals. The MoDOT DBE directory is published on MoDOT’s Web site and updated every two weeks. MoDOT currently has 258 certified DBE firms, with the number increasing each year.

The following list outlines the office staff and their duties:

## Lester Woods

Civil Rights Administrator –  
Jefferson City  
(573) 751-2859

[Lester.WoodsJr@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Lester.WoodsJr@modot.mo.gov)

- Oversees all programs and staff in the External Civil Rights Unit.
- Directly handles issues relating to Title VI, Environmental Justice, and Limited English Proficiency programs.

## Donnetta A. Cole

Senior Civil Rights Specialist –  
Kansas City  
(816) 622-0311

[Donnetta.Cole@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Donnetta.Cole@modot.mo.gov)

- Conducts external EEO compliance reviews and ensures prime contractors, sub-contractors or DBE contractors are compliant with state EEO requirements.
- Acts as a liaison for department activities related to on-the-job training, contract compliance, EEO, DBE certification, city and county compliance and Federal Highway Administration requirements.
- Works with minority and female-owned businesses to secure increased contracting opportunities with the state through DBE certification.
- Conducts program development activities including business recruitment, training and workshops, community outreach, and pre-apprenticeship and work initiatives.

## Kristi Hixson

Intermediate Civil Rights Specialist –  
Jefferson City  
(573) 751-7801

[Kristi.Hixson@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Kristi.Hixson@modot.mo.gov)

- Conducts DBE certifications for businesses in Missouri that are not in the St. Louis and Kansas City areas.
- Sets goals on federally funded projects.
- Verifies the contractors submit complete and accurate DBE participation with their bids on projects with DBE goals.
- Reviews good faith efforts, substitutions and commercial useful functions.

## Tanya Pleus

Civil Rights Specialist – Jefferson City  
(573) 751-6801

[Tanya.Pleus@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Tanya.Pleus@modot.mo.gov)

- Coordinates MoDOT’s Title VI program.
- Handles DBE certifications for businesses outside Missouri.
- Conducts annual updates provided by DBE firms.
- Maintains the monthly and semi-monthly reporting to the Federal Highway Administration.

## Missy Reed

Intermediate Civil Rights Specialist –  
Jefferson City  
(573) 751-1216

[Melissa.Reed@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Melissa.Reed@modot.mo.gov)

- Conducts EEO contract compliance reviews and monitoring, which includes determining which contractors MoDOT will review during the construction season.
- Coordinates the On-the-Job Training program, which includes setting and monitoring the OJT goal as well as tracking and approving contractor trainees.
- Coordinates EEO workshops sponsored by MoDOT.
- Oversees contractor employment tracking.
- Conducts DBE certification reviews.

## Patricia D. Weekley

Senior Civil Rights Specialist –  
St. Louis  
(314) 340-4337

[Patricia.Weekley@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Patricia.Weekley@modot.mo.gov)

- Identifies business opportunities, designs, coordinates and implements training and business development programs offered by the External Civil Rights Unit (sponsored and supported by the St. Louis District).
- Conducts community outreach with minority and female organizations, contractor organizations and political representatives.
- Acts as an advocate for department efforts in non-discrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action.
- Assesses DBE certification applications.
- Submits applicant recommendations to the external civil rights administrator.
- Monitors contractors’ compliance with contractual equal opportunity and on-the-job training requirements.



Missouri Department of Transportation  
105 W. Capitol Avenue  
P.O. Box 270  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

PRSRT STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Jefferson City MO  
Permit No. 24

---

## Minority Enterprise Development Week Celebrates Diversity

The annual Minority Enterprise Development Week was held Oct. 1-7 in Kansas City. Originally created in 1982 as a way to bring business owners from the minority community together, MED Week has played a key role in promoting economic growth within the minority business community.

The theme for this year's events, "Minority Business Enterprise: A Kansas City Priority," reflected the community's commitment to support and enhance economic growth and recognition among leading minority-owned enterprises. MED Week's continued design is to bring together business owners from all walks of life to pursue mutually beneficial opportunities.

The activities for this year included:

- A kickoff and networking breakfast where businesses were able to showcase their products and services to local and governmental agencies and other small businesses.

- A business bus tour, during which purchasing representatives interested in working with minority businesses had the opportunity to conduct site visits and evaluate vendor capacity and product/service lines. This year's tour showcased the following minority and female-owned businesses: Universal Data, Inc.; Gordon Graphics Solutions, Inc.; Natural Soap Co.; HotMetal Creative and The Peachtree Restaurant.
- A buyer/supplier forum, sponsored by the Minority Supplier Council highlighted "Navigating the Bidding Process." A panelist of representatives from local, state and other agencies provided information on their bidding processes and how to successfully become a preferred supplier.
- An award luncheon that saluted some of the area's leading minority enterprises and corporate supporters.

- A Youth Vocational Entrepreneurship Day that provided business and vocational activities to promote entrepreneurial development.

*For more information, contact Donnetta Cole at 816-622-0311.*

